

Daily Eagle

ILLINOIS FRUIT DRYING.

THE ANCIENT AND MODERN STYLE OF DRYING APPLES.

How the Process of Evaporation is Now Conducted by Fruit Dryers—In an Evaporation Establishment—Extent of the Industry—Wages Paid.

The apple drying of the early days is now the great and growing evaporation business of to-day. Man's ingenuity has not only done away with the old and laborious manner of taking out the price of fruit for home consumption, but it has built up an enormous trade in which not only the meat of the fruit is preserved for future use, but the seed and the cores are utilized. The instigating cause of the vast spread in the business is found in several facts. Numerous storms blow the fruit from the trees to the ground, making the apples unfit to ship, and the cider mills fail to create a sufficient demand for cider to use the fruit for that purpose. Canning the fruit adds to the bulk, while evaporating reduces it.

An evaporating establishment consists of a building having in it a number of towers running from the basement to and through the roof. The towers are made of wood and are about three feet square. Running down the outside and up the inside of two sides of the tower is an endless belt, which runs over a pulley and is moved by means of a crank at the base of the tower. About eight inches from each other cleats are fastened to the belt. There being a belt on each side of the tower, a wire-bottomed tray containing the green fruit is pushed through an aperture in the tower and rests on the cleats. The crank is turned sufficiently to bring up another pair of cleats and another tray is shifted into its place, and so on until there are enough trays to make a tier reaching to the top, where, after being in the tower from four to five hours, the trays are taken out, there being a tray put in at the bottom each time one is taken out at the top. The heat in the tower is kept at 120 degrees by means of a furnace located at the base of each tower, and in which coal fires are kept burning, never being allowed to go out during an evaporating season. In order to make the fruit blanch into snowy whiteness instead of becoming brown, as it used to, it is put into trays and into a bleaching tower at the bottom of which limestone is burned, the fumes doing the work of whitening. These towers are called bleachers.

PAIRING AND SLICING MACHINES.
Apples are hauled in from the country and weighed in bulk, fifty pounds being considered a barrel. The seller is paid for the apples at from twenty-five to thirty cents per 100 pounds, and they are unloaded into huge bins. Young girls and middle-aged women make up almost the entire force employed in an evaporator. A long table runs the entire length of the room, the pairing and slicing machines being placed on the table. A first-class machine peels and cuts up into rings, taking out the core of one apple in something less than a second and by one continuous movement of the crank. The machine is very simple and costs \$18. A girl will stand at the machine, turn the crank with one hand and place the apples on the prongs with the other, and prepare fifty barrels of apples per day. She is required to have two helpers, however, whose duty it is to cut the sliced apple apart with a knife and to cut away the decayed parts.

What class of girls do this work? One might say all classes. They come in from the country, the ones from the rural districts meet in the city and on the same plane. Girls who have been successful and unsuccessful behind dry goods counters will grind an apple machine day in and day out, making less complaint than a man. Many young girls who have good homes and are not required to work for their living, apply for employment in evaporating establishments. The operators say they prefer female to male help in the business, and nine-tenths of the concerns to day are employing girls almost exclusively. They require braiding in, however, the main trouble at the start being their inherent disposition to take the matter of work to heart. The girl who works the machine is paid four cents a barrel for each barrel peeled, dividing the same equally between herself and the two girls who act as helpers. This would give each a trifling over sixty cents a day. Of course, those who do more work get more pay. As fast as the fruit is dried it is generally shipped to market. A girl will do the packing. A box holding fifty pounds will have the bottom "clad" with pieces of the dried fruit, and will then be filled up, the under side being opened when the box is displayed for sale.

THE FEELINGS AND CORES.
Of course the market varies on the price realized, but it averages about five cents for choice rings. There are generally sixty hands employed about the average evaporator. Besides the peelers, hands are employed to supply the girls with apples, to put them in and take them out of the towers, to help unload from the wagons, and night and day hands to drive the furnaces and watch the fruit in process of evaporation. A healthy crop of apples will turn out about five pounds of dried fruit, from which it will be seen that there is a fair profit in the business.

The peelings and cores are evaporated in the same manner as the apples, and are packed and shipped away, selling in the neighborhood of two cents a pound. These goods are used for making jelly, and a goodly portion of the jellies seen on the shelves of grocery stores has been squeezed from apple peelings and cores. Dried fruit is not only used to a large extent here, but is exported, France consuming a large amount annually. The evaporators do an immense amount of good to the community in which they are located. Besides employing labor they create a demand for fruit which could find no market. The dried fruit is shipped mostly to Chicago commission merchants, who find no trouble in making ready sales. Some of the more wealthy operators do not sell at once, but hold for winter prices. Most of them, however, go on the small profit and quick return principle—Centralia (Ill.) Cor. Chicago Tribune.

Getting Her Waked Up.
She—Not another word, Mr. Ricefellow. Hush, I implore you. I had no idea you were going to ask such a question. I shall never marry.

He—You love another.
"I love no one."
"If you are determined, there is nothing for me to do but to go back to my first love, Miss Peachie."

"Miss Peachie! O, how I detect that girl!"
[She is the loveliest, most beautiful, most—]
"Stop! I will be your wife!"—Omaha World.

Henry Ward Beecher always drinks wine at dinner and supper.

The largest hotel in the world—at Rockaway Beach—stands vacant this season.

The Quarrel in Brazil.

First Actress—I see that Mrs. Noirmont slapped Sarah Bernhardt's face in Rio the other day.

Second Actress—Dear me! I wonder what poor Mrs. Noirmont did for her bruised hand.—Omaha World.

"Just throw me half a dozen of the biggest of those trout," said a citizen to a fish dealer. "Throw them," queried the dealer. "Yes, and then I'll go home and tell my wife that I caught 'em. I may be a poor fisherman, but—"



BARGAINS FOR THIS WEEK.

Lots in McCormicks addition are now on sale. This property in first hands, lies near the street railway, and is convenient to schools and churches. There is nothing better in the market.

Four lots on North Topeka avenue at \$100, less than market values.

Twenty lots in Orme & Phillips addition at a special bargain.

Lots of almost every dimension on College Hill. The material is ordered for street railway to that suburb. This property will double in value.

Acres in all directions, suitable for subdividing.

House and lot on South Market street, rented for \$10. Price \$1,000.

Business lot on North Main street, very cheap at \$5,900.

Lot centrally located on Douglas avenue, \$12,500.

Fifty ft. on Lawrence near Douglas avenue, \$12,000, very cheap.

Fine business lot on Main street between First and Second, old building rented at \$50 per month. \$12,500.

Large lot and six new houses on South Emporia ave. all under rent; pays a good interest on the investment. \$10,000.

112-1-2 feet on South Emporia ave. near Douglas. Two good houses, rented at \$20 each, east front. Price \$10,000.

8 lots in Orme & Phillips' addition, will sell for ten days at \$2500.

10 lots in Richland addition, \$150 each, must be sold this week.

19 lots in Chataqua addition, \$175 each.

Lots in Maple Grove addition east of the city. These lots are selling rapidly at popular prices.

THE BEST OF ALL.

Have the exclusive sale of a sub-division of the Moser Homestead on College Hill. These are certainly the best lots in the market for parties intending to build. Prices range from \$1600 to \$2,000 each, part time. Call early and make a selection.

FARMS.

Farms and vacant lands in all parts of the country. Abstracts of title furnished free of charge.

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Corner Douglas and Lawrence Avenues.

Authorized Capital - \$200,000
Paid-Up Capital - \$76,000

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Successors to Wichita Bank, Organized 1872.

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